

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 064978
ORIGIN AF-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01
INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02
SS-15 NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 DHA-02 IO-13
OPR-02 ACDA-07 AID-05 MC-02 /091 R

DRAFTED BY AF/C:GHAMILTON:JR
APPROVED BY AF/C:TRBUCHANAN
AF/P - BRUSSELL

-----240140Z 066647 /14

O 232348Z MAR 77
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY KINSHASA IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY LUSAKA IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY LAGOS IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY LISBON IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY NAIROBI IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY PARIS IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY MAPUTO IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW IMMEDIATE
AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN IMMEDIATE

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, CG, AO

SUBJECT: CONTINGENCY PRESS GUIDANCE - BORDER ATTACK
ON ZAIRE

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1. PARAS 2 - 9 CONTAIN PRESS GUIDANCE PREPARED FOR
MARCH 23 DEPT BRIEFING, FOR USE ONLY IF ASKED:

2. Q: WHAT IS THE SITUATION IN ZAIRE'S SHABA PROVINCE?

A: FIGHTING CONTINUES IN THE AREA WEST OF MUTSHATSHA.
AS FAR AS WE KNOW THERE HAS NOT YET BEEN A MAJOR

CONFRONTATION OF FORCES.

3. Q: WHAT ABOUT MISSIONARIES IN THE AREA HELD BY HOSTILE FORCES?

A: REPORTS REACHING OUR EMBASSY INDICATE THAT THE MISSIONARIES ARE WELL.

4. Q: ARE THERE ANY PLANS TO EVACUATE US CITIZENS FROM ZAIRE:

A: THERE ARE NO PLANS TO EVACUATE US CITIZENS FROM ZAIRE.

5.

Q: WHAT ABOUT ZAIRE'S SUPPLEMENTARY REQUESTS FOR US AID?

A: THESE QUESTIONS ARE UNDER ACTIVE STUDY.

6. Q: DOES THE DEPARTMENT HAVE ANY BETTER IDEA OF THE AIMS OF THE INVADING FORCES?

A: THE INVADING FORCES HAVE NOT REALLY SPELLED OUT THEIR AIMS. AS YOU MAY REMEMBER A POLITICAL GROUP, THE NATIONAL FRONT FOR THE LIBERATION OF THE CONGO CLAIMED RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE INVASION SHORTLY AFTER THE FIGHTING BEGAN. SINCE THEN THERE HAS BEEN LITTLE ADDITIONAL WORD. CONSIDERING ZAIRE'S SIZE, AND THE LIMITED TRIBAL AND REGIONAL BASE OF THE KATANGAN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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GENDARMES, WE ARE CONCERNED ABOUT A REVIVAL OF THE POST-INDEPENDENCE CIVIL WAR WHICH COULD RESULT IN A DE-FACTO SECESSION OF SHABA.

7. Q: HAVE WE IN THE PAST SHIPPED SO-CALLED LETHAL WEAPONS TO ZAIRE?

A: THE UNITED STATES' SEVENTEEN-YEAR-LONG MILITARY AID RELATIONSHIP WITH ZAIRE HAS INCLUDED SHIPMENTS OF US ARMAMENTS AND AMMUNITION.

8. Q: DO WE HAVE ANY COMMENT ON SOVIET ACTIVITIES IN ZAIRE?

A: AS FAR AS WE KNOW THERE HAS BEEN NO UNUSUAL SOVIET ACTIVITY IN ZAIRE DURING THE PAST SEVERAL YEARS.

9. Q: DO YOU HAVE ANY COMMENT ON NIGERIAN EFFORTS TO MEDIATE BETWEEN ANGOLA AND ZAIRE?

A: THE NIGERIAN GOVERNMENT'S EFFORTS TO HELP RESOLVE
PROBLEMS BETWEEN ZAIRE AND ANGOLA ARE WELCOMED BY THE
US GOVERNMENT. WE STRONGLY FAVOR AFRICAN SOLUTIONS
TO AFRICAN PROBLEMS.
VANCE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: INVASIONS, CONTINGENCY PLANNING, PRESS CONFERENCES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 23-Mar-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Drafter: GHAMILTON:JR
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Expiration:
Film Number: D770100-0554
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770329/aaaaayyn.tel
Line Count: 122
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Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
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Original Previous Classification: n/a
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Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
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Retention: 0
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Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 01-Dec-2004 12:00:00 am
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Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
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Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: CONTINGENCY PRESS GUIDANCE - BORDER ATTACK ON ZAIRE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
TAGS: PFOR, CG, AO
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